PROTECTION OF EQUIDAE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

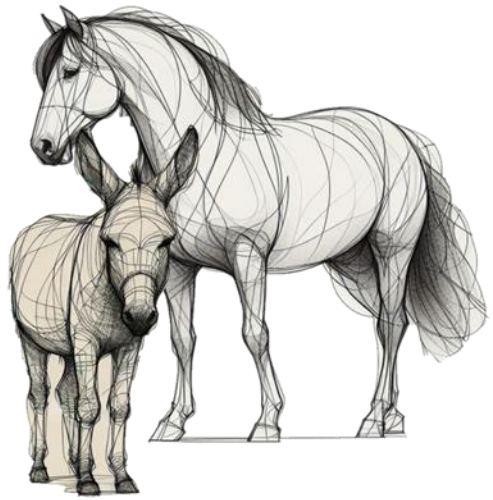
EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

SCOPE

The species to be covered **Equus caballus (horses), Equus asinus (donkeys) and their hybrids (mules and hinnies)**.

To be differentiated and properly considered when making scientific recommendations, when relevant:

- **Breeding** Equidae: Equidae kept mainly for breeding.
- **Working** Equidae: Equidae kept mainly for competitive, non-competitive, commercial, leisure or subsistence **activity**.
- **Production** Equidae: Equidae mainly kept for the production of meat, milk, or other substances and products of animal origin.
- Horses, ponies, draught horses, donkeys, mules and hinnies.



TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) & OUTPUTS

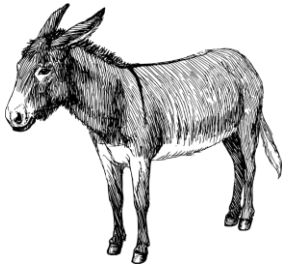
Technical report

(EFSA-Q-2024-00187)

- **TOR1**: Review most common husbandry systems and current practices for keeping the different categories of *Equidae*

Scientific opinions

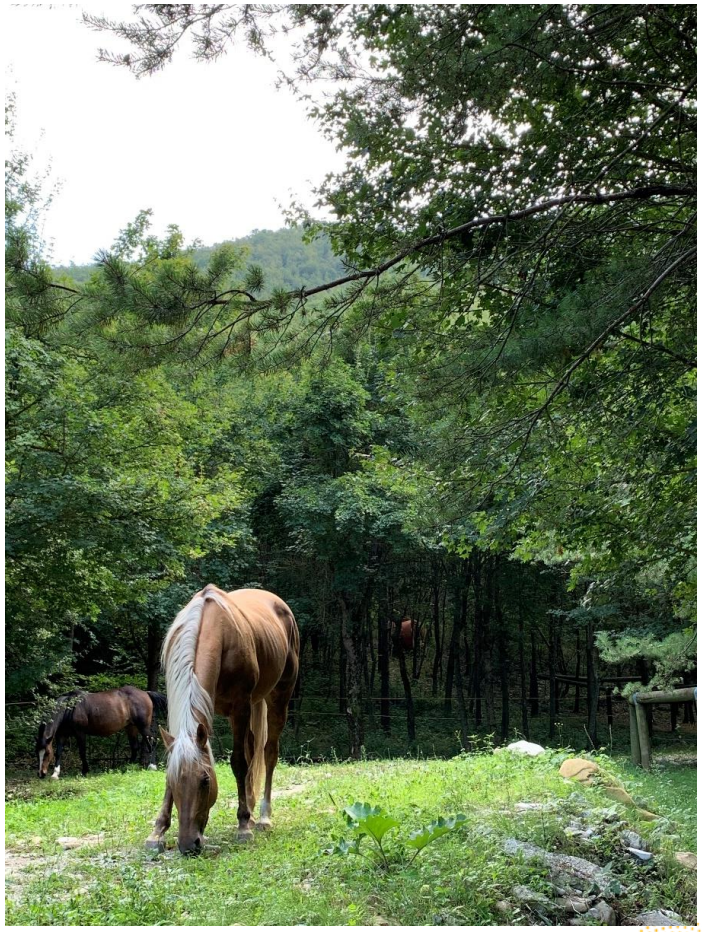
- **horses** (EFSA-Q-2024-00188)
- **donkeys** and their **hybrids** (EFSA-Q-2024-00189)



- **TOR 2:** Identify welfare consequences, Animal-based measures (ABMs) and recommend prevention/mitigation measures
- **TOR 3**: ABMs collected in slaughterhouses to monitor on-farm welfare

TOR 1 TECHNICAL REPORT

- **Review of the most common husbandry systems and current practices for the categories of Equidae in the EU**
  - Individual (loose and tethered)
  - Group housing *including* feedlots
  - Bedding types
  - Access to outdoors and periods at grass
  - Access to conspecifics
  - Nutrition and feeding practices



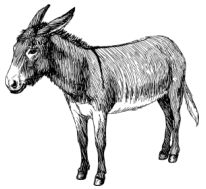
TOR 2 SCIENTIFIC OPINION

For at least the species Equus caballus and only when specified the species Equus asinus and their hybrids, and for the husbandry practices and hazards listed below, EFSA will:

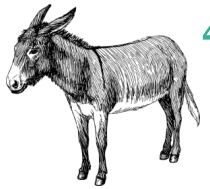
- Identify the **highly relevant welfare consequences** (including e.g., locomotory disorders, gastro-enteric disorders, metabolic disorders).
- Identify suitable animal-based measures (**ABMs**) to detect and monitor the most relevant welfare consequences.
- Provide qualitative or, when specified, quantitative recommendations to **prevent the hazards or mitigate the welfare consequences**.

TOR 2 SCIENTIFIC OPINION

- **TOR 2a: Welfare assessment of housing conditions (incl. feedlots), in relation to:**



1) Minimum **space allowance**, including for ***Equus asinus*** **and their hybrids** (i.e. total space allowance in function of group size, minimum height of stable or shelter, minimum bedding area and depth, minimum space for resting, minimum space for feeding). Where possible, quantitative recommendations will be included.
2) Design of the **functional areas** of housing (including risks associated with standing stalls and tie-stalls).
3) Type of **flooring** and **bedding**.



4) Nutrition and **feeding** strategies, including for ***Equus asinus*** **and their hybrids** (e.g. general nutritional requirements, feeding schedules, individualised feeding in group housing).

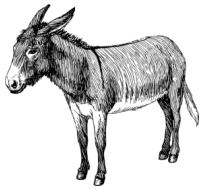
TOR 2 SCIENTIFIC OPINION

- **TOR 2a: Welfare assessment of housing conditions (incl. feedlots), in relation to** (cont'd):

5) **Water** access (including automatic drinkers).

6) **Enrichment**.

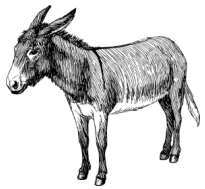
7) **Air** quality, **temperature**, and **lighting** (including natural light and visual horizon). Where possible, quantitative recommendations will be included.



8) **Social needs**, including for ***Equus asinus*** **and their hybrids** (i.e. access to conspecifics, including in visual, auditory, and olfactory form and including **stallions**).

9) **Outdoor** access (or lack of), providing the opportunity for **grazing** and **free movement** and including the risks related to the practice of **hobbling** in the absence of an outdoor enclosure.

TOR 2 SCIENTIFIC OPINION



- **TOR 2b: Welfare assessment of Equidae, including Equus asinus and their hybrids, kept outdoors (including extensive systems and pastures), in relation to:**

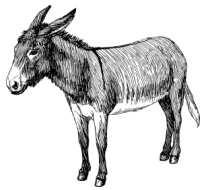
- Weather and weather events (protection from cold, heat, wind, rain, and underfoot conditions)
- Water access
- Social needs

TOR 2 SCIENTIFIC OPINION

- **TOR 2c: Risks to welfare associated with the following practices and mutilations:**

- Tail docking
- Hot iron or cold branding
- Castrations
- Caslick's procedure (vulvoplasty)
- Thermocautery of the limbs

Photo by May16th XD on Unsplashed



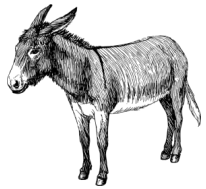
- **TOR 2d: Risks to welfare of Equidae, including Equus asinus and their hybrids, associated with absence of, or inappropriate:**

- Hoof care
- Dental care

Photo by Jonathan Bean on Unsplash

TOR 2 SCIENTIFIC OPINION

- **TOR 2e: Risks to welfare associated with breeding, including:**
  - Minimum age at first breeding, maximum number of gestations per mare and minimum inter-gestation period. Where possible, quantitative recommendations will be provided.
  - Foaling conditions and facilities
  - Weaning conditions (age at weaning, procedure)



- **TOR 2f: Risks to welfare of Equus caballus and Equus asinus related to genetic selection for certain phenotypes**

Photo by Donald Teel

TOR 2 SCIENTIFIC OPINION

- **TOR 2g: Risks to welfare associated with collection of blood for commercial purposes, in relation to:**

- **Restraining** methods during blood collection and **blood collection practices** (i.e. material used, collected quantity, frequency of collection and time between two consecutive collections on the same animal). Where possible, quantitative recommendations will be provided for blood collection practices.
- Risks associated with induced and repeated **abortions**.

TOR 2 SCIENTIFIC OPINION

- **TOR 2h: Risk to welfare associated with to human-Equidae interaction and handling practices, including:**

- **Basic training** until destined use (i.e. being lead, being tied, hoof and veterinary care)
- The use of electric prods and whips.

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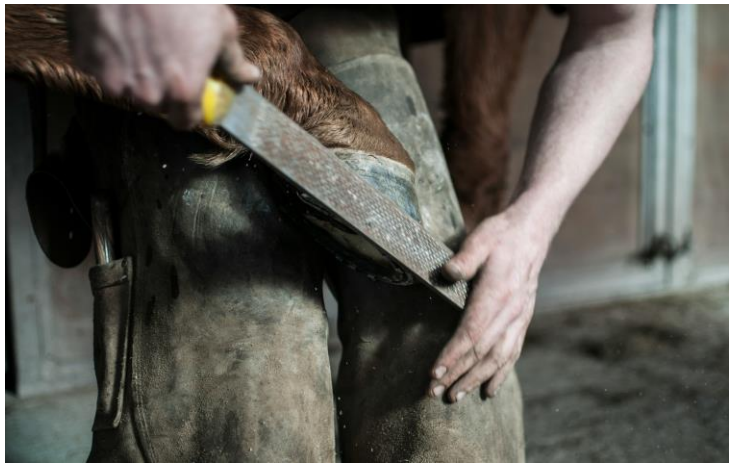

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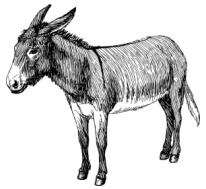
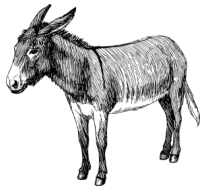
TOR 2 SCIENTIFIC OPINION



- **TOR 2i: Risks to the welfare of Equidae, including Equus asinus and their hybrids, during working activity in relation to:**

- **Age** at start of training. Where possible, quantitative recommendations will be provided.
- Maximum pulling and carrying **weight**. Where possible, quantitative recommendations will be provided.
- Condition during **gestation**.
- **Environmental conditions** during effort (i.e. maximum temperatures). Where possible, quantitative recommendations will be provided.
- **Duration** of effort (i.e. minimum resting period). Where possible, quantitative recommendations will be provided.

TOR 3 SCIENTIFIC OPINION



- TOR 3. The assessment of **Animal Based Measures collected in slaughterhouses** to monitor the level of welfare of Equidae in establishments (maximum 5 indicators).

Deadline for all outputs:
December 2026

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